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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/832,666	04/11/2001	Tomoaki Aihara	P/1878-169	1818

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NEW YORK, NY 100368403

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JIMMY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2829

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/832,666

Applicant(s)

AIHARA, TOMOAKI

Examiner

Jimmy Nguyen

Art Unit

2829

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --***Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 - 29 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 - 29 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Argument

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 7, 14 and 21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 – 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art (figs 1 – 3) in view of Zamborelli (US 5172051).

As to claims 1, 7, 14, 21, The admitted prior art (figs 1 – 3) disclose an inspection method and apparatus for simultaneously inspecting a plurality of semiconductor devices (64) each having a terminal (65) for an input signal, comprising the steps of.

Preparing a driver (62) for outputting a signal to be used for inspection;
Connecting an output terminal of driver (62) to a branching point (66b).

However, the admitted prior art is silent on connecting each of terminals of the semiconductor devices and the branching point through a current limiting element and a capacitor connected in parallel to current limiting element ; and

Outputting a signal from driver toward branching point.

On the other hand, Zamborelli disclose (fig 4) connection each of terminals of the semiconductor devices (104) and the branching point through a current limiting element (Rc) and a capacitor (Cc) connected in parallel to current limiting element (Rc); and

Outputting a signal (150) from driver toward branching point.

It would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention was made to modify the admitted prior art and using the probe tip assembly (101 with a RC parallel) for the purpose of reducing in stray capacitance and increasing the probe bandwidth (COLUMN 4 LINE 49 –51)

As to claims 2, 8, 16, 19, 23, 26, Zamborelli disclose the inspection method further comprise wherein a resistor (Rc or Rt) is used as current limiting element.

As to claim 13, The admitted prior art must (in the obvious way) provide the external clock (CLOCK) is supplied to the second terminals through the second driver (in order the to activate the chips

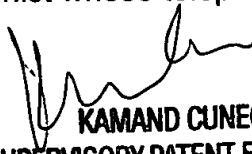
As to claims 15, 22, Zamborelli disclose the current limiting elements (Rc) and the capacitors (Cc) are provided in a probe card (a probe tip in this case) or a test board for connecting semiconductor device (104) to be inspected to a tester (150).

As to claims 3 - 6, 9 – 12, 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, 27 – 29, Zamborelli discloses the claimed invention except for the value of resistor and capacitor. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use appropriate values for resistors, capacitors, and frequency given the device application since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy Nguyen at (703) 306-5858. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

JN.
Feb 4, 2003



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